

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment before beginning examination of the above-identified patent application, and early favorable action by the Examiner.

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-9, 11-12, and 15-18 will be pending. Claims 1-9 and 11-12 have been amended, claims 10 and 13-14 have been cancelled without prejudice, and new claims 15-18 have been added. Support for the amendments and for the new claims may be found, for example, in the specification of application PCT/US2003/034577 as originally filed, e.g., page 6, lines 8-15 and lines 22-29; page 7, lines 5-7; page 9, lines 16-27; page 10, lines 12-16; and Figures 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and related text, and in the previously filed claims of application PCT/US2003/034577. No new matter has been added.

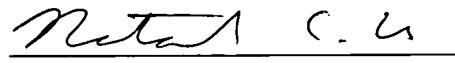
Enclosed is a check for \$1,000.00 for the filing, search, and examination fees. Please charge any other fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 570-1806.

Respectfully submitted,

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